

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for detecting the presence of contamination in a nucleic acid
2 amplification reaction conducted on a sample, comprising the steps of:
3 conducting a first nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample,
4 wherein at least one first nucleic acid primer used in said first nucleic acid
5 amplification reaction comprises a first portion that is complementary to a nucleic
6 acid sequence in said sample, the amplification of which is desired, and a second
7 portion that is not complementary to said nucleic acid sequence;
8 conducting a second nucleic acid amplification reaction in said sample
9 wherein at least one second primer used in said second nucleic acid amplification
10 reaction is complementary to said second portion; and
11 detecting contamination in said sample as the presence of amplicon in said
12 second nucleic acid amplification reaction.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said second portion is not complementary
2 to any contiguous nucleic acid present in said sample prior to said first nucleic
3 acid amplification reaction.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said first nucleic acid amplification
2 reaction is selected from the group consisting of PCR, Q-PCR, and reverse-
3 transcriptase PCR.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said second nucleic acid amplification
2 reaction is selected from the group consisting of PCR, Q-PCR, and reverse-
3 transcriptase PCR.

